

REMARKS

1. General.

Claims 4-9 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 4, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Thompson et al.** (2003/0229522 A1). The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 - 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Thompson et al.** (2003/0229522 A1) as applied to Claims 4 and 8 and further in view of **Lencki et al.** (2002/0049617 A1).

2. Response on Rejection of Claims 4, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 4, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Thompson et al.** (2003/0229522 A1). Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to incorporate elements that distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Claim 4 refers to a method for managing information in a group participant purchasing environment that is novel with respect to two different features that occur in real-time. The ability to retrieve single data records from a legacy processing system in real-time and the ability to provide customer assistance in real-time whereby the same interactive data exchange screen is visible concurrently at wholly separate locations are novel and different from the cited publications.

Applicant's Claim 4 is based on the ability of the information management environment to perform legacy processing or to access a legacy database in real-time. Typical implementation of a new database system would require a transfer of data from a legacy database prior to the initialization of the new database system. Applicant's system would leave the existing legacy system intact and fully operational in its present

state and access it in real-time when a given user record is needed. The legacy record is read in real-time, rule requirements of the new management system are applied to the legacy record, the data is modified by the user, and then the new record is applied to the new management system, all in real-time. **Thompson et al.**, unlike Applicant, states that all information be captured and maintained in a single source (**Thompson**, ¶101) and further supports the standard initialization process by providing for importing client information (**Thompson**, ¶105, 117) or manually enter[ing] or import[ing] the required data (**Thompson**, ¶134). Applicant's claimed method would reduce the time to start the system and provide a reduced cost benefit to the information management system owner and user by applying real-time legacy processing.

Further, Applicant bases Claim 4 on a process whereby a collaborative processing co-browsing feature allows a customer service representative and the user to view, edit, or otherwise manipulate the data on the same screen in wholly separate locations. **Thompson et al.**, provides for a multi-authority administrative function to allow or prevent access users on a predetermined need (**Thompson**, ¶125). **Thompson et al.** aims to provide a type of management-employee business system whereby management type personnel may setup varying access levels for multiple employee use. Applicant through Claim 4 and the dependent claims describes an information management system that does not restrict to management-employee interaction but also allows for third party to customer support in real-time through concurrent viewing of the same interactive data exchange screen in completely separate locations.

Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to incorporate elements that distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Both dependent Claims 7 and 9 perform

their function in real-time, Claim 7 determining where the initial data is derived, and Claim 9 accessing and restructuring data from a legacy system into the new information management system. As above, typical database transfer requires an initial importation of legacy data into a new system prior to startup of the new application. Claim 7 provides a way for the Applicant's information management system to determine if its database has the necessary information and where to receive the data if the user information is not present. Claim 9 provides within the Applicant's information management system a method to access and translate data from a legacy system in real-time, instead pre-loading an entire legacy system prior to startup, and foregoing the need to predict the necessary data required from the legacy system.

3. **Response on Rejection of Claims 5 - 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 - 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Thompson et al.** (2003/0229522 A1) as applied to Claims 4 and 8 and further in view of **Lencki et al.** (2002/0049617 A1). Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to incorporate elements that distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Applicant has amended Claims 5 and 6 so that the real-time, concurrent viewing, editing, and manipulation of a single data record can be accomplished by wholly separate interactive data exchange screens. **Lencki et al.** provides for a customer support function that is performed by voice (telephonic, ¶0083, ¶0105, ¶0106), email (¶106), or chat function (¶105, ¶106), all indicating that the **Lencki et al.** system would use a typical menu driven type of help system. Applicant's information management help system is not limited to this menu driven type of system, but provides for a real-


time collaborative session between the customer service representative and the user while both can see each others input or editing.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and their passage to allowance. Should any further impediments to allowance remain, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the indicated phone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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